

EA Studies Summary

1. Business Intelligence

In April, 2006, the state of North Dakota's Business Intelligence (BI) Study team selected CIBER, Inc. to conduct a high level assessment of the State's business intelligence architecture and strategy. The primary deliverables for this project were to provide the State with:

- A compilation of the State's business intelligence requirements
- Specific vendor/technology pros and cons related to the business intelligence requirements
- Recommended business intelligence and data warehousing information architecture
- High-level business intelligence and data warehousing implementation strategy
- High level implementation budget

Recommendations:

1. Adopt an enterprise Business Intelligence software standard.
2. Adopt an enterprise Data Integration (Extract, Transform, Load – ETL) software standard.
3. Adopt an enterprise Data Warehouse Platform standard.
4. Integrate the recommended BI solution into the State's Enterprise Architecture.
5. Eventually replace the current non state standard BI related software with the state standard BI software.
6. Perform BI assessments of new application systems.
7. Establish a central Business Intelligence Competency Center.
8. Consider using the Cognos BI solution for the PeopleSoft business intelligence applications.
9. Consider sharing BI costs with other organizations.
10. Establish a statewide BI Application Advisory Council.
11. Utilize outside consultants on an as needed basis.
12. Establish a budget.

2. Mobile Computing Strategy

In June of 2005 the EA Architecture Team created a special study team to evaluate device offerings (Blackberries, Treos, etc.) and develop a strategy that the State should take regarding them. Including, if possible, recommending a standard device. Currently wireless email and calendaring is driving the demand for these devices, however, it is believed that there will be a desire to run applications on them in the future.

Devices running each of the three major operating systems available (BlackBerry, Palm OS, and Pocket PC) were evaluated, with the corresponding servers to ensure complete functionality.

Recommendations:

1. Do not standardize on specific devices right now.
2. Build an infrastructure that will support as many devices as possible, for wireless email.
3. For security reasons, encourage use of the server infrastructure whenever possible.
4. Deploy administrative policies that ensure compliance with existing security standards.
5. As demand for application development on these platforms increases, determine whether or not it makes sense to create a standard mobile device for these types of applications.

3. Microsoft SharePoint

In the fall of 2005, the ARB issued a charter creating a study team to review and recommend the future direction of Microsoft SharePoint. The team met several times during December, January, February and March.

Recommendations:

1. Proceed with a deployment of SharePoint.
2. Restrict this deployment to those individuals that are authenticated via ND's Active Directory.
3. SharePoint's current version (2003) is best considered to be a short-term repository. The enterprise repository should be utilized for long term document storage.
4. Customization of the default templates should be kept to a minimum.

4. Desktop Search

In November 2005, the EA Architecture Team created a special study team to evaluate desktop search tools and determine a direction that the State should take regarding them. The current demand is for a free tool that can be used to enhance the searchability of user data. Therefore, the study concentrated on the free offerings from Google, Microsoft, and Yahoo.

Recommendations:

1. Since a misconfiguration of these clients can have adverse affects on the State's network resources, standardize on a desktop search tool that allows for client configuration via a centralized administration tool.
2. Consider all non standard clients banned.
3. Configure clients to only search data on the local desktop.
4. If searching of network resources is necessary, evaluate enterprise class search tools to determine the best fit for the environment.

****Full copies of the Study Team recommendations can be found under the “Technical Recommendations” section of <http://www.nd.gov/ea/standards>**